

# **CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005**

**WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**400 PHENIX AVENUE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.**

## **MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Scherza, Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Laliberte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. It was moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) and contract and litigation pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2).

Mr. Lupino, acting as Chair, reconvened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Lupino noted that the committee suspended Executive Session;

**the committee would be returning to Executive Session after the public session.**

**Mr. Lupino stated that the committee was no acting under new rules. After a discussion with Mr. Palumbo and after the School Committee secretary takes the roll, when there are votes on the agenda items, she will use a format that will be alphabetical, reverse alphabetical, by ward number, by reverse number, and it will be random. The only caveat is that the clerk or acting clerk will be the last one to vote. Anyone wishing to pass their vote will have one opportunity to re-vote before the clerk votes for the final vote.**

**The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.**

**VI. Minutes of Previous Meetings – September 14, 2005; September 19, 2005**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the minutes of September 14, 2005 and September 19, 2005 be approved.**

**VII. Public Acknowledgements/Communications**

**There were no public acknowledgements or communications.**

## **VIII. Chairperson Communications**

**Mr. Palumbo had nothing to report.**

## **IX. Superintendent Communications**

**Mrs. Ciarlo stated that she sends an update to the School Committee once a week, but there were some things she felt the entire community should know. She acknowledged and thanked the staff under Mr. Zisseron, Plant Engineer and Director of Plant Transportation. Many people have been mopping up rivers and streams that have gone over their banks. The school department was inundated on Fletcher Avenue with the school buses, some of which are being repaired and some which are stored there. The staff, custodians, bus drivers, and bus aides worked all weekend to clean out the buses to get them ready. She was happy to report that with few exceptions the district was 100%. They borrowed buses for the day until they were ready to get the Cranston buses back in operation again. It wouldn't have been accomplished if they didn't have the kind of staff that Cranston Public Schools has that gave the time and number of hours that was needed to get that job done. Mrs. Ciarlo publicly thanked Mr. Zisseron and his staff for their help. The school department buses are now in 100% operation, and within that period of time, that is a wonderful undertaking.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo also reported that Barrows Elementary School has been selected as a Blue Ribbon School. This means that they will be honored in Washington, DC, around November 10th and 11th. Usually it is a principal and a teacher who attends the ceremony, but the principal who retired in June from that school is not enjoying good health and is unable to join them. The itinerant librarian who works long and hard and a classroom teacher will be representing Barrows School and the Cranston Public Schools for that award in November.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Laliberte to share with the committee information on a grant that Cranston has received along with two other communities. Mr. Laliberte reported that Cranston Public Schools did receive a grant and that Beverly Prestage should be commended as the Program Supervisor for Social Studies. She started to write a grant along with some of the social studies teachers a year ago. Her first application to the grant process and the RI Historical Society did not meet with success the first time, but she re-applied this year using and working with the RI Historical Society. Cranston is one of three communities that were awarded a grant of \$567,000 over the next three years. This will be a professional development grant to help teachers teach American history using primary sources. It will require students to look at the original sources of material in whatever period of history they are teaching, and it will also appeal to the higher order of thinking skills because**

they will have to analyze and come up with some generalizations about these documents and their impact on American history. He again

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asked that Mrs. Prestage be commended for leading that charge. Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mrs. Prestage to stand up and be recognized.

Mrs. Ciarlo asked Mr. Scherza to share with the committee the latest report on school population. Mr. Scherza stated that he would be receiving an update on Wednesday with the final population figures. Along with that will be a breakdown to the committee by classroom by grade by school in terms of numbers. As of the end of last week which was the last official figures, there were 10,998 students registered. Every day throughout the school year the numbers vacillate. There are always a few students coming in and going out. There are 4,648 elementary students and in grades 6 through 12 there are 6,350 students. A number of classes are at capacity. Administration has cut down on the number of classroom sections even though the number of students has increased slightly from last year. As the elementary students work their way through the system, after this current year, the district will begin a decline of approximately 1% to 1.2% of the population district wide per year. There will be a full report in Friday's update that outlines all of the

classes, school buildings, and how many per class in each class.

## **X. School Committee Member Communications**

Mr. Stycos reported that at the last School Committee meeting, the members created a health and exercise committee. Each member of the School Committee has an appointment to that committee. He asked that the committee members notify him of the parent they would like appointed to that committee. Please let him know their name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Mr. Stycos stated that when the committee passed the budget there was a provision passed that if a grant relating to library services was secured that \$10,000 would go into new library books. He asked the status of this provision. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that it was on hold. Mr. Stycos asked why, and Mrs. Ciarlo responded that it was due to the budget constraints that the district is under right now. They don't know the final figure in the school budget. They felt that it would be best to hold it until after the budget revision in November to see where they stand. Mr. Stycos stated that it was a vote of the committee to do that, and that should be done unless it is reversed by the committee. Mrs. Ciarlo responded that she did not say that it wouldn't be done; she felt that out of an abundance of caution, she is not doing it now until after she comes back from the committee with a recommendation depending upon what the budget looks like in November.

**Mr. Stycos stated that the committee had discussed the lease at Norwood Avenue for parking, and Mrs. Ciarlo was going to meet with Mrs. Salone about the possibility of moving it over to a grant program. Mrs. Ciarlo had asked Mr. Scherza to follow up on this, and they did meet with her. It is her understanding that she was told that her**

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**program is growing and is more successful, and she needs to assume responsibility for the lease on the parking lot. Mr. Scherza reported that as of today, and he has spoken with Mrs. Salone, the item will be moved to the AEP budget from funds that they will have to generate from future budgets. Mr. Stycos asked about this fiscal year, and Mr. Scherza said that administration had not transferred it yet.**

## **XI. Public Hearing**

### **a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Items)**

**There were no students who wished to speak on an agenda or non-agenda item.**

### **b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)**

**Almas Kalafian, 400 Narragansett Parkway, Warwick – She spoke on Resolution No. 05-10-2. Ms. Kalafian stated that she is native born in Cranston and attended Cranston schools until leaving for college. A teacher by the name of Louis Gelsomino, a seventh and eighth grade English teacher, is the person who is responsible for getting her to understand as a young adolescent how much courage it was going to take for her to be able to stand up to the resistance from her parents, first born Armenians in this country, to get them to allow their daughter to leave home and go to college. She commented that she is totally blind now, but at that time she already had a severe visual impairment; but that was not the issue with her parents. It was leaving home, and it was getting an education. Mr. Gelsomino and she did not know very much about Armenian heritage at that time. With her mother, her parents had come to this country and told her very little about their family upbringing, but there were so many questions unanswered. Her father would shut down if she asked about his parents and coming to this country so she was left that way. With Mr. Gelsomino's support, she prevailed. She had a thrilling, almost twenty-six year profession working for the Providence School Department and for five years she taught elementary school. For the next twenty-one years she taught, like Mr. Gelsomino, seventh and eighth grade English. Federal Hill changed quite a bit in the twenty-six years while she was there. One of the things she understood going into the profession that made it so easy for her was that it is absolutely crucial to be as an effective teacher to**



not to be able to recognize every child's learning style and no doubt that their culture and heritage impacts their learning styles. She made it her business. From January 1970, almost 95% of Federal Hill was Caucasian, and by the time she left in June of 1995 having lost all her vision by that time, she left a school that was 40% Latino, 24% African American, 24% Asian, and 12% Caucasian. She submitted for the record a brief outline of her teaching experience. She brought with her one of her students' accomplishments dated February 1, 1986. It is a school newspaper that was completely written by students in two English classes, one accelerated class and the other was comprised completely with Cambodians, Laotians, Mongs, and Thais who had just come to the United States about two weeks before

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school had started in 1984. What is most prominent in this paper is the fact that it won second runner-up in a state journalism contest and many of the students share the suffering that is going on in their families. One will read about the slave trade but more importantly many of her Asian students share what they personally went through with the Khmer Rouge and what was later defined as the Killing Fields. Today the Armenian heritage is much more known than it was back years ago. Much more has been published so today she came to this meeting to ask the committee if they would kindly consider doing for her heritage what she has done so many years for everyone

**else's child and their heritage.**

**Beverly Prestage, 22 Franconia Drive, Social Studies Supervisor for the City of Cranston – Mrs. Prestage spoke on Resolution No. 05-10-2.**

**She thanked the committee for their interest in the social studies curriculum. She thought it was very important that people think in terms of not just what is happening here but what is happening around the world, not just in the past but also looking at what is going to happen in the future. Mrs. Prestage went on to say that the subjects that were targeted in Resolution in 05-10-2 sponsored by Ms. Iannazzi found in the Rhode Island General Laws 16-22-22 are already embedded in the present social studies curriculum in the City of Cranston. The first area cited was the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Middle Passage. That is covered in US History, section 8-1, No.'s 1 through 3, and it is also covered in US AP History class. The second mentioned was the great hunger period in Ireland, the Irish Famine, and it is covered specifically in United States History 1877 to the present in Section 11.1, No. 4. The Armenian Genocide, the third area covered, is dealt with in World History 2, 10th grade curriculum, and specifically Section 10.7, No. 3. The Holocaust is dealt with in World History 2, 10th grade curriculum, Section 11-8, No.'s 4 and 5. United States History 1877 to the present is dealt with in 11.5 No. 7. United States History 1877 to the present also in Section 11.13. Mussolini is covered in World History 2, 10th grade curriculum, Section 10.8, No. 2 and also in United States History 1877 to the present, Section 11.5, No. 1. They also go beyond what is mentioned. They deal with**

**Apartheid in South Africa and other human right violations. This is done is World History 1, 10th grade curriculum, Section 10.7, No.'s 4, 6, and 8 and also in United States History 1877 to the present in Section 11.13, No.'s 1 through 6. These topics are not just studied in their history classes but they are also studied in some of the social studies classes. For example, they are covered in sociology, anthropology, contemporary affairs, civil law, and the psychology classes. They realize the importance of instilling tolerance and a sense of responsibility in the students, and they know the way to do that is to educate them about these things. However, their ability to teach Genocide and human rights as a separate unit would be made even more difficult due to scheduling in the present budgetary constraints. Cranston teachers donate every effort to introduce these topics as well as other applicable ones whenever an opportunity arises. They do this as often as they can. She would welcome any volunteers from the community who have an expertise in these areas to please come forward and help the schools supplement their present curriculum. She hoped that this**

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**explanation helped clarify the fact that the items mentioned in this resolution are already being addressed by the present curriculum.**

**Esther Kevorkian-Koolajian, 56 Riverfarm Road – She spoke on Resolution No. 05-10-2. Her father, Zenas Kevorkian, was the first**

social studies department head at Cranston West, and she believed that Mr. Traficante knew her father and worked for him. She was asked by Mrs. Prestage if there was anyone in the community who would like to speak who has knowledge. Her colleague was also present with her this evening who has been working on Genocide education and promoting Genocide education in the schools. Last March there was a conference at Rhode Island College of which there was a representative from Park View and a representative from Cranston West. A lot of that was due to the urging of School Committee member Andrea Iannazzi. Genocide education may very well be included, and there may be pockets of education that occur not only in Cranston Public Schools but also throughout the state as well. However, they feel it is important, especially during these times, to incorporate Genocide education because as they have been reading, young students in particular are the ones who are targeted. Young students are the ones who have the most knowledge of labeling groups and targeting and all the things that Genocide encompasses. Many ethnic groups have experienced Genocide, but she believed that the students would be best prepared by recognizing the tactics, the way neighbor can turn against neighbor, and she believed it was very important. The reason she feels this way is due to the fact that their grandparents were victims of Genocide. When her sons turned the age of her grandfather, she looked at them and asked if they would have survived if this happened to them. She believed that one can take everything away from an individual except their education. She believed that as educators they deserve to give

**them the most knowledge to be prepared citizens.**

## **XII. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Lupino stated that the Consent Agenda would consist of Resolution No.'s**

**05-10-4, 05-10-5, 05-10-6, 05-10-7, 05-10-8, 05-10-9, 05-10-10, 05-10-11, 05-10-12, 05-10-13, 05-10-14, 05-10-15, 05-10-16, 05-10-17, 05-10-18, and 05-10-19.**

### **PERSONNEL**

**NO. 05-10-4 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX, Section B of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:**

**Bethany Hogan-Zawislak, Teacher**

**Cranston High School East**

**Effective Dates: December 2005 – September 2007**

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**NO. 05-10-5 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the**

**remainder of the 2005-2006 school year:**

**Wanda DeRouin, salary to be at the tenth step plus Masters of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – Rhode Island College**

**Experience – Providence School Department**

**Certification – Elementary/Middle ESL**

**Assignment – Itinerant Resource, .4 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 3, 2005**

**Authorization – Replacement**

**Fiscal Note: 51523129 512100**

**Kristen Field, salary to be at the tenth step of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – Rhode Island College, BS**

**Experience – Cranston Public Schools' Substitute**

**Certification – School Nurse-Teacher, PK-12**

**Assignment – Itinerant Resource, .5 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005**

**Authorization – New**

**Fiscal Note: 15146313 513100**

**Susan L. Hartnett, salary to be at the tenth step plus Masters of Social Work of the prevailing salary schedule**

**Education – University of Rhode Island, BA; University of Pennsylvania, MSW**

**Experience – North Kingstown School Department (Retired)**

**Certification – School Social Worker**

**Assignment – Park View Middle School, Social Worker, .2 FTE**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 17, 2005**

**Authorization – Replacement**

**Fiscal Note: 15136113 511000**

**NO. 05-10-6 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**Robert Fascitelli French/Italian**

**Ryan Moses General Subject Matter, K-12**

**Alexis Norton Elementary**

**Elida Rivera General Subject Matter**

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**Bianca Bertoncini Elementary**

**Lindsay Testa Elementary**

**Laurel Givens General Subject Matter**

**Debra Borelli Nurse-Teacher**

**Amy Weber Elementary**

**Jennifer Sparks Elementary**

**Pamela Jennings Middle/Secondary Spanish**

**Elizabeth Graham Special Education Elementary/Middle**

**Joseph Bishkoff Music**

**Joseph Cardillo Elementary**

**Lauren Lavoie Special Education Elementary/Middle**

**Krystal Morrison Elementary**

**Michael Correia Secondary History**

**NO. 05-10-7 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:**

**Erin Rath, Teacher**

**Bain Middle School**



**Effective Date: October 7, 2005**

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**NO. 05-10-8 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following individual be appointed as an athletic coach:**

**Kate Anderson, Assistant Field Hockey**

**Step – 1**

**Class – D**

**Playing Competition – High School**

**Experience – None**

**Certification – Rhode Island Coaches Certification; CPR/First Aid Certified**

**NO. 05-10-9 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following coach be accepted:**

**Joseph Rotz, Assistant Hockey**

**Cranston High School East**

**Effective Date: September 20, 2005**

**NO. 05-10-10 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be recalled from layoff:**

**Mary Choy, Teacher Assistant**

**Oak Lawn School**

**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Ann Marcotte, Teacher Assistant**

**Stone Hill School**

**Effective Date: October 24, 2005**

**NO. 05-10-11 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:**

**Barbara Ferraro, Psychological Intern**

**Special Services**

**Effective Date of Employment – September 26, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 15136413 513700**

**Dawn Steiner, Teacher Assistant**

**Special Services**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 3, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 12232032 519500**

**Amy Messere, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date of Employment – September 7, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 14347518 518600**

**Christine Graham, Bus Monitor**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 6, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 14347518 518600**

**Denise Giovo, Three-hour Food Service Worker**

**Food Service Worker**

**Effective Date of Employment – September 29, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 32947179 511000**

**Deborah Tullo, Three-hour Food Service Worker**

**Food Service**

**Effective Date of Employment – October 3, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 33047179 511000**

**Taralyn Gouveia, Three-hour Food Service Worker**

**Food Service**

**Effective Date of Employment – September 19, 2005**

**Fiscal Note: 31647179 511000**

**NO. 05-10-12 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:**

**SECRETARIES**

**Camille Cataldo**

**Cecile Campanile**

**BUS DRIVERS**

**Jayne McDonald**

**Nancy Hackett**

**NO. 05-10-13 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Maryann Cross, Bus Driver**

**Transportation**

**Effective Date: October 6, 2005**

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**NO. 05-10-14 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the**

**Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:**

**Arlene K. McGarrahan, Instructor**

**Alternate Education Program**

**Effective Date: September 30, 2005**

**Mark McGetrick, Four-hour Custodian  
Plant**

**Effective Date: September 20, 2005**

**Carol Gelsomino, Three-hour Food Service Worker  
Food Service**

**Effective Date: October 14, 2005**

**Linda Nardolillo, Three-hour Food Service Worker  
Food Service**

**September 26, 2005**

**Dolores Sprague, Three-hour Food Service Worker  
Food Service**

**September 26, 2005**

**Tammy Donley, Three-hour Food Service Worker  
Food Service**

**October 3, 2005**

## **BUSINESS**

**NO. 05-10-15 - RESOLVED, that the Administration be authorized to establish the following tuition rates for the 2005-2006 school year.**

**Half-day Kindergarten     \$ 5,286**

**Grades 1-12     \$10,573**

**Special Education     \$35,812**

**Career and Technical Center – Regular     \$11,446**

**Career and Technical Center – Resource (1-2 classes) \$23,629**

**Career and Technical Center – Self-Contained (3-5 classes) \$35,812**

**Sanders Academy     \$31,852**

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**NO. 05-10-16- RESOLVED, that the following purchases be approved:**

**Office Supplies in the amount of \$13,696.27**

**Number of bids issued 30**

**Number of bids received 11**

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM**

**NO. 05-10-17 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following Field Trip of Long Duration be authorized:**

**Richard Abruzzini, teacher at the Cranston Area Career & Technical Center, Janis McGuirl, and approximately ten Cranston Area Career & Technical Center DECA students to attend the DECA North Atlantic Regional Conference in Burlington, Vermont, from November 11, 2005 to November 13, 2005.**

**NO. 05-10-18 - RESOLVED, that Policy No. 9300 (f) Section N, and 9300 (h) Section XI B, as amended, Rules of the School Committee, City of Cranston, be approved for second and final reading.**

**NO. 05-10-19 - RESOLVED, that Policy No. 9362, as amended, By Laws of the School Committee, Time and Place, be approved for second and final reading.**

**Moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.**

## **XIII. Action Calendar/Action Agenda**

**SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI AND MR. STYCOS**

**NO. 05-10-1 - RESOLVED, that prior to any vote on an administrative appointment, the Superintendent shall supply each School Committee member with a copy of the chosen applicant's resume. This shall apply to all administrative positions that are at the assistant principal level or higher. Except in unusual circumstances, the committee shall receive the resume with the meeting agenda.**

**Moved by Mr. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Stycos that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Stycos stated that the committee has talked about this quite a bit in Executive Session. The purpose of this resolution is to provide the committee with a resume of the applicants who are selected by the Superintendent for the top administration**

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**positions in the district so that the committee can make a better educated vote on them when they come up on the agenda.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo stated that not everyone completes a resume, but they do complete an application. This is somewhat private information, and if administration gets to the point where they are going to make a recommendation to the School Committee, that resume is made available in the Human Resource Office for any members of the**



committee who want to peruse it. She has a great concern and problem in just disseminating applications out to the School Committee. It is very easy for materials to get other than where they are, and some of these resumes when they come in have not notified their present employers that they are intending to compete in another arena. She felt it would create problems. The information is in Human Resources, but she has hesitated; and unless directed by the committee, she does not intend to send out resumes in an update because she has a real problem with it, not in sharing the information, but the manner in which it would be done.

Mrs. Greifer asked Mr. Stycos why he felt being able to go to the Briggs Building and read the material is inadequate. Mr. Stycos responded that everyone has busy schedules, and sometimes one can make it and other times one cannot make it. It is just another unnecessary hoop that the committee would have to jump through. He pointed out that Mrs. Greifer has been on interview committees as he has been as a parent, and they received resumes. He felt that a resume is a fairly public document because it is a document prepared by the applicant. They generally wouldn't put on it any of the bad things that might make them look bad. It is a positive spin on their life, and he thought it was a valuable piece of information. The majority of the committee members won't have the time to go to the Human Resources office and look at them every month. He didn't see why the School Committee couldn't be trusted with this relatively public document.

Mr. Lupino asked that if an applicant stated that due to the sensitive nature of their existing position if they did not wish their resume handed out what would happen to that applicant. He further asked if it would preclude the applicant from being considered. Mr. Stycos responded that he was not talking about every applicant's resume; he was talking about the applicant who was chosen by the Superintendent for a position. He would expect that person at the point where he or she is chosen by the Superintendent and has been informed that they are going to be on the agenda would be speaking with their employer about that situation.

Mr. Lupino stated that he was voting against this resolution for no other reason other than the fact that it is not jumping through hoops if someone is that interested in what needs to be done one could visit Human Resources to view the file. By state law, the committee has one employee, and that person is the Superintendent. The

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committee is not in the care of hiring anyone. She makes the appointments, and the committee makes the consent to agree to it. He didn't think the committee needed a resume to accomplish that. A resume will not tell him how that person presents himself, what qualifications make him unique to the particular needs of a particular

**school or a particular position.**

**Mr. Traficante stated that the Superintendent provides the School Committee with an abbreviated resume of that person during Executive Session so that they have an opportunity to question the Superintendent on the person's credentials. He asked Mr. Stycos what he hoped to gain by having the resume before the committee that they don't get from the Superintendent in terms of the highlights.**

**Mr. Stycos responded that it would give more information. Mr. Traficante added that the Superintendent provides the committee with the applicant's education, experience, and past job experience. Mr. Stycos commented that the information is very edited, and he would like to see the original document.**

**This Resolution was defeated with Mr. Archetto, Ms. Iannazzi, and Mr. Stycos in favor; Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Traficante were opposed.**

#### **SPONSORED BY MS. IANNAZZI**

**NO. 05-10-2 – Whereas, Rhode Island General Laws 16-22-22, Genocide and Human Rights Education,” permits School Committees to incorporate materials on:**

- 1. the period of the transatlantic slave trades and the middle passage;**
- 2. the great hunger period in Ireland;**
- 3. the Armenian genocide;**

**4. the Holocaust; and**

**5. the Mussolini fascist regime and other recognized human rights violations**

**into their elementary and secondary school curriculum; and**

**Whereas,**

**1. in America in 1776, one fifth of the population was enslaved;**

**2. in Ireland between 1845 and 1849, the potato crop was obsolete, resulting in the death of over 500,000;**

**3. in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians perished after being subjected to many forms of torture by the Turkish government;**

**4. in thirty-five locations throughout Europe, from 1939 to 1945, Nazi leaders killed over 10 million through the use of concentration camps, euthanasia, and extermination camps, among others;**

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**5. in Italy from 1922 to 1943, Mussolini led a regime which promoted censorship and worked towards a goal of taking over the Mediterranean,**

**Be it RESOLVED, that the School Committee recommends that high school history departments make an effort to teach these materials as a unit in order to learn from previous ignorance and to promote**

tolerance.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Ms. Iannazzi thanked the members of the public who came here this evening to speak in favor of this important Resolution. She further commented that her constituents, specifically the Armenian community, brought this issue to her attention because they are concerned with the lack of attention that this Armenian genocide receives nationwide. She put this Resolution forth to make sure that this and other tragic events receive their proper attention. Rhode Island State Law tells us that it is the duty of the School Committee to identify educational needs in the community, to develop education policies to meet the needs of the community, and to establish policies governing curriculum and courses of instruction. This Resolution is based on legislation sponsored in the House of Representatives by then Representative Aram Garabedian. While it does identify five particular human rights violations, it is by no means exclusionary. Teachers should feel free to add any unit they see fit to this recommendation. Many officials join her in supporting this Resolution including Attorney General Patrick Lynch, Senator Hanna Gallo, Mayor Stephen Laffey, Council members Aram Garabedian, Paula McFarland, Jeffrey Barone, and Cynthia Fogarty. They join together in hopes that this Resolution will allow Cranston's future to learn from the past, grow as individuals, and realize that America is

unique in its widespread appreciation for different cultures, beliefs, and religions.

Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that as Superintendent she didn't have a problem as long as everyone understands that the district is already doing this. What Ms. Iannazzi and others are bringing forward is the need, given the tenor of the times, to emphasize human rights' abuses more than has been done in the past so that students can come to an understanding of that early on and learn how to get along with one another so that there would never be anything like that again. Given the fact that it is a recommendation, given the fact that it acknowledges that the district is already doing it and that it is not exclusive because there are many areas beyond what is mentioned here that would need to be covered, then she would basically not have a problem with the Resolution.

Mr. Traficante commented that he has no problem with the recommendation brought forth in this Resolution. He was happy to see that Cranston's social studies department does incorporate much of this material in their curriculum. He was pleased that they do so and will keep up with any current events that will impact on this as well. Mrs. Ciarlo

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referred to the woman who spoke on the conference, among other

things mentioned, and Mrs. Ciarlo did say to Ms. Iannazzi at the time that there were many students who wanted to attend that conference; but it occurred during the week, and believe it or not students don't want to miss class because they will be getting quizzes, etc. If it could be considered to have it on some day other than a week day she was sure that many more young people who would want to go. The district was willing to bus as many of them who wanted to attend. She asked them to consider it for the future.

Mr. Archetto commended Ms. Iannazzi for introducing such legislation. It was also important to teach about the Holocaust, the genocide of the Armenian people. However, he had a problem with the statute itself in mentioning Mussolini's fascist regime on the scope and level of things. There were many other regimes that were far more totalitarian and evil such as the rape of Nang King, Pobox regime, Stalin's genocide, and many other instances from which to choose. He doesn't know why she singled out Mussolini. Mr. Traficante, in response, stated that Mrs. Prestage made it very clear. The district will cover any kind of genocide that has taken place in the past and in the future education wise.

Mr. Lupino referred to the Resolution at the bottom where it states, "...make an effort to teach these materials as a unit in order to learn from previous ignorance and to promote tolerance." He asked Ms. Iannazzi the meaning of "as a unit". Ms. Iannazzi responded that they are taught together in order to emphasize human rights travesties

that have occurred and places an emphasis on building bridges from the past and promoting tolerance. They would be taught along side one another, not necessarily as a class but more together in a unit. Mr. Lupino remarked to Ms. Iannazzi that she was not suggesting that the five she mentioned be taught as separate units but genocide as a total, and then someone who for example is Cambodian would like to study the atrocities in Cambodia. Mr. Lupino further commented that in the past his only concern was that the School Committee was telling the teachers what to teach, but this Resolution is more of a suggestive approach, and he appreciated what she was trying to do. Being that it is a suggestive approach rather than dictating, he can support this Resolution. Mrs. Ciarlo further commented that what she meant by a unit is that the topic of violation of human rights would be introduced at some point in time, but throughout the studying of history, whether it be American history, world history, or ancient history, when topics came up or incidents occurred that were violations of human rights, her only concern was that they were going to choose only the five that appeared. She wanted to be sure that the public understood that with the representation the district has of African Americans, Southeast Asians, and others, they would see that as a broad topic of violation of human rights, and here are some very specific examples. She encouraged the people represented this evening that if there are any who would be interested in speaking that have topics to please contact Mrs.



Prestage because there is nothing that hits home as much as someone who shows a picture or has a story to tell that brings it to life and it is done with human beings. She would welcome it. Mrs. Ciarlo thanked Ms. Iannazzi for her interest in this area.

Mr. Stycos stated that he supported this Resolution. He felt it was very important. The key words were “as a unit” to address these issues. Too often in the teaching of history the horrors and the nastiness are overlooked, and things just sort of happen in the teaching of history.

Mr. Stycos moved to amend this Resolution as follows: To add No. 6, the killing fields of Cambodia; No. 7, the genocide in Rwanda; No. 8, Stalin’s collectivization of agriculture; No. 9, the rape of Nang King.

Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.

Mr. Traficante stated that Ms. Kevorkian made it very clear that there should be genocide education that would cover the gamut of past, present, and future situations. He didn’t feel that everyone should be identified. Mr. Lupino added that this is becoming what he was afraid it would become. The committee is now beginning to earmark every little situation. He didn’t think that everything could be covered. Mr.

**Stycos questioned the comment “every little situation.” Mr. Lupino commented to Mr. Stycos that he is trying to cover everything, and Mr. Lupino didn’t think it could be done. The fact that the teachers would be encouraged to promote any particular person’s interest in an area that could be related to genocide would be enough to cover any of the other areas that he mentioned.**

**Mr. Palumbo commented that he didn’t think there was any committee member or anyone in the audience that isn’t horrified or isn’t in agreement that these things that happened are absolutely unbelievable. He has been to Bosnia, and in terms of many of the other incidents, that was less horrific only in terms of numbers. He doesn’t think that anyone disagrees that the students should be aware of these happenings. He also stated that he didn’t think it was being left out. People could give lectures on a certain segment when it comes up. The public should be working to try to find more time in the schedule to allow this because they are having problems scheduling many things. By doing this, the students will have the knowledge, and at the same time, teachers can fit it into the schedule and it will be much more realistic when the students are listening.**

**Ms. Iannazzi pointed out that item No. 5 does state the Mussolini fascist regime and other recognized human rights violations. She felt the amendment was unnecessary.**

**Mr. Stycos remarked that traditionally history has been taught in the**

**United States as the history of the United States and Western Europe.**

**These five examples that are listed, with the exception of Turkey and the Armenians, are all in Western Europe. The**

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**scope should be broadened, and that is the reason for his amendment. These things did not happen only in Western Europe; they happened in Africa, Asia, and the list should be expanded to at least get them on the list.**

**Mr. Traficante stated to Mr. Stycos that he was not objecting to his additions. The list is exhaustive. Mr. Archetto brought up the Native Americans. There was prejudice there for the Indians in this country and a great deal of human rights violations. He didn't think the committee should start naming each one of them because the list would go on and on. Genocide education should be covered as a general topic.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo remarked that Ms. Iannazzi has quoted what is in the state law right now, but she has left the door open for other areas. Mrs. Ciarlo was sure that the other areas cited by Mr. Stycos are covered, but they are covered as a part of the history situation. She believed that what they were talking about is emphasizing what violation of human rights and genocide means so that every time the students are studying something the teacher could ask what is meant by it and**

**what they are learning from it so that they don't see it as one point in time but a continuation of violation of rights in the different areas of the world. Mrs. Prestage commented that World History is taught and not Western Civilization.**

**This amendment failed with Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer and Mr. Stycos in favor; Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, and Mr. Traficante opposed.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**NO. 05-10-3 - RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the appointment of Assistant Principal for Bain Middle School be approved.**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mrs. Ciarlo stated that this Resolution was the recommendation for an appointment of an assistant principal for Bain Middle School. It was her pleasure to recommend Kristin Ward Hlady as assistant principal at Bain Middle School. Kristin comes to Cranston with a BA in Education from Rhode Island College with an English major. She has her administration degree from Providence College as well. She**

has been an English teacher. She taught ESL at Nathan Bishop Middle School in Providence. She has been at the Calcutt Middle School in Central Falls doing an administrative internship. She has been on the school improvement team and has had many administrative experiences to prepare her for this position. Mrs. Ciarlo further commented that she was most impressed with the fact that Kristin knows where she wants to go, but it was quite obvious from the beginning that she has a deep and abiding love for kids. She

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wants people in this profession that loves kids, wants to be with them, and wants to do the best for them. Someone asked her where she wants to be in ten or fifteen years, and she pointed to Mrs. Ciarlo's desk. Mrs. Ciarlo recommended Kristin to the School Committee without reservation.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

## **TABLED RESOLUTION**

**NO. 05-9-22 – RESOLVED**, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be recalled from layoff:

**Jo-anne Gesterling, Teacher Assistant**  
**Edgewood Highland School**  
**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Cynthia Sweet, Teacher Assistant**  
**Gladstone School**  
**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Kathleen Hassell, Teacher Assistant**  
**Dutemple School**  
**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Deborah Vilardi, Teacher Assistant**  
**Stadium School**  
**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that this Resolution be removed from the table.**

**Ms. Iannazzi moved to amend this Resolution to remove the name of Cynthia Sweet from this Resolution.**

**Mrs. Greifer seconded the Resolution.**

**This Amendment was adopted unanimously.**

**This Resolution as amended was adopted unanimously.**

**This Resolution now reads:**

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**NO. 05-9-22 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be recalled from layoff:**

**Jo-anne Gesterling, Teacher Assistant**

**Edgewood Highland School**

**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Kathleen Hassell, Teacher Assistant**

**Dutemple School**

**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**Deborah Vilardi, Teacher Assistant**

**Stadium School**

**Effective Date: September 7, 2005**

**XIV. New Business**

**There was no new business.**

## **XV. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items**

**Valerie Schulie, 27 Farm Street – Mrs. Schulie stated that the Superintendent is getting ready to retire and do wonderful things with her family, and she asked Mrs. Ciarlo not to forget everyone. She asked what the new process would be for hiring a new superintendent. She asked if parents would be involved. Unless a position has been shifted by the Superintendent for administration, in the past there have been committees that do interviewing. She understood that the politics of hiring a superintendent are difficult to understand. She also understood that going to all-day interviews could be daunting, but if one can't stand the politics and can't stand all-day interviews, one should keep going because Cranston isn't the place for that person. She did hear mention that the committee intended to do the interviewing. If that is the process the committee is going to utilize, then the public should be told up front. Mr. Lupino stated that without compromising the committee's executive session, he could tell her that it is the prerogative of the School Committee to choose the Superintendent and that this School Committee will be choosing the Superintendent. There will be at some point in time a public hearing where members of the public will be able to ask questions of the candidates. Mrs. Schulie asked if the public could ask questions of all the candidates, and Mr. Lupino responded that it**



would be the candidates who would be finalized. Mrs. Schulie asked if the public could come to the committee to voice their concerns privately as to how they feel. Mr. Lupino indicated to Mrs. Schulie that she has the power of the pen or e-mail. If she goes to a hearing and she doesn't like what she has seen or heard, she has the power to call or write the committee members. Mrs.

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Schulie stated that the best thing a parent can give their child is the gift of education. The Superintendent's job is the most important job that affects her child's education which is very important to her. She believes that wherever there are parents, teachers, and administrators who are involved in the whole process there is better education. She wants to know that she will have a fair shot at being involved in the process because not having parents involved, she doesn't want to go backwards. She wants a fair shot at that consideration.

## **XVI. Announcement of Future Meetings**

Mr. Lupino reported that the School Buildings Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 25th. The next work session on energy savings will be held on Monday, November 7th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Briggs Building. A work session will also be held on Wednesday, November 9th.

## **XVII. Adjournment**

**Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the members reconvene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(2) litigation.**

**The members reconvened to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.**

**Mr. Lupino reconvened public session at 8:46 p.m.**

**Moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the October 17, 2005 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.**

**Moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.**

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at  
8:48 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Anthony J. Lupino**

**Clerk**

**9300(f)**

**N. A motion to reconsider is in order at any time during the same meeting or at an adjourned meeting; however, the motion to reconsider must be made by a member of the committee who voted in the affirmative (with the prevailing side.) Any member can second the motion. When a motion to reconsider has been decided, the original vote is void.**

**O. If the presiding officer so directs, every motion shall be reduced to writing.**

**P. No member of the committee shall speak more than once on the same question, until all other members of the committee desiring to speak thereon shall have done so.**

**Q. In the event of a tie vote related to matters of management and policy, the matter before the committee shall be tabled to the next scheduled or special meeting of the committee, where the matter can be voted on again. If the matter is tabled to the next scheduled meeting of the committee, debate can continue before the re-vote; however, for a matter to be considered by the committee again once**

**placed on the table, a procedural motion must be made and seconded to “remove from the table.” A majority vote of the committee is required to remove a matter from the table.**

**R. Any member of the School Committee, except the chairperson, may make a motion and/or second another member’s motion.**

**S. Any member of the School Committee, including the chairperson, shall be entitled to introduce resolutions.**

#### **T. Seating**

**1. In addition to the members of the School Committee, the following members of the Administration shall be seated on stage with the Committee: (a) the Superintendent, (b) the Assistant Superintendent, and (c) the School Committee secretary. In Budget sessions, the Executive Director of Business Management/Operations shall also join the Committee on stage.**

**2. Seating shall be assigned by the Chair of the School Committee. All members shall face one another and tables shall be set in a horseshoe shape.**

#### **9300(h)**

**A. Written notice for all regular meetings shall be sent out from the superintendent’s office so that the notices are in the hands of the full**

**committee at least four days prior to the meeting. A complete agenda for the regular meeting must accompany every notice.**

**B. Notice for special meetings shall be sent in writing or email and by phone, with forty-eight (48) hours' notice except in an emergency, as determined by the chairperson and/or superintendent.**

## **XI Types and Call of Meetings**

**A. Regular Meetings of the committee shall be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless the time and date be changed by a majority vote of the committee at a previous monthly meeting, with adjournment no later than 11:00 p.m. No new item of business shall be introduced after 10:30 p.m. All meetings shall be scheduled and be accessible to all.**

**1. The School Committee shall make every effort to not schedule its regular meeting on the same night as the regularly scheduled Council meeting.**

**B. Special Meetings of the committee shall be called by the superintendent of public schools at the request of the chairperson or by a request in writing to the chairperson signed by two (2) members of the committee.**

**C. Organizational Meeting of the School Committee shall take place immediately following the swearing-in of the newly elected committee**

members which shall take place on the first Monday following the New Year.

D. Executive Meetings or sessions of the committee shall be called at such time and place as is required for free discussion of personnel or other matters included under RI Gen. Laws. 42-46-5, and by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, authorize the consideration of a closed session. The administration with the chairperson's consent shall submit to the School Committee an agenda for Executive Session of the items to be discussed, but not the specific content. Any tentative proposals for action taken at such closed sessions shall require confirmation at subsequent open meetings.

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## **Bylaws of the School Committee**

### **Time and Place**

Regular meetings of the School Committee shall be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless the time and date be changed by a majority vote of the committee at a previous monthly meeting, with an adjournment no later than 11:00 p.m. No new item of business shall be introduced after 10:30 p.m. All meetings shall be scheduled and be accessible to all.

**The School Committee shall make every effort to not schedule its regular meeting on the same night as the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.**

**Legal Reference: Gen. Laws RI 1956 – Title 16 – Education 16-2-8**

**Policy Amended: March 21, 1983 CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Policy Amended: October 17, 2005 CRANSTON, RI**

**Resolution No.: 05-10-19**